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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/854)]

45/216. Population and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/210 of 22 December 1989, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to examine, in particular, the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations, adopted by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1989, 1/ to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of decision 90/35 of 20 June 1990 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Population Fund, 2/

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/82 of 27 July 1990,

Noting that in the report of the United Nations Population Fund entitled The State of World Population, 1990 it is stressed that population growth and distribution are closely linked with environmental and development issues,

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1/ A/C.2/44/6, annex.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I.

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, 3/ which were affirmed and expanded at the International Conference on Population, 4/

Recognizing that socio-economic development is conducive to the success of population policies,

Reaffirming that assistance to developing countries in the area of population should be substantially increased during the 1990s and that developing countries should also intensify their efforts to allocate adequate resources to population programmes,

1. Emphasizes the sovereign right of all countries to formulate, adopt and implement their population policies, mindful of their cultures, values and traditions, as well as of their social, economic and political conditions, and also consistent with human rights and with the responsibilities of individuals, couples and families;

2. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations and on efforts to develop further the analysis of resource requirements for international population assistance, 5/ in which the unmet and expanding resource needs for population activities are outlined;

3. Encourages the Fund to sustain the momentum generated by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century through continued follow-up to the recommendations contained in the Amsterdam Declaration;

4. Stresses the need to take into account all economic and social factors in integrating demographic objectives in population strategies and in the formulation of development strategies in general;

5. Emphasizes the importance of mobilizing and increasing resources for population activities and, in this context:

(a) Urges all Governments, each according to its capacity, concerned international and regional organizations, including the World Bank, and non-governmental organizations to make every effort to mobilize the resources required for population activities, which are estimated at $9 billion per year by

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3/ See Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

4/ See Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda).

5/ DP/1990/44.

the year 2000, taking into account the potential for user contributions, where feasible and advisable;

(b) Notes the crucial importance of resource investments in health and education, especially for women, for the success of population programmes, and urges Governments of developing countries to strengthen, according to their economic and social capacities and conditions, their political and financial commitments to investments in the social sector, and also urges Governments of developed countries, as well as concerned international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen their financial and technical support in the areas of health and education, to respond positively to requests for population assistance and to increase significantly the proportion of their development assistance destined for population activities;

(c) Stresses the desirability of concentrating Fund resources, in accordance with the criteria established by the Fund, on countries most in need of assistance in the population field in view of their population problems, taking into account the special needs of the low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

6. Encourages the Fund, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, to strengthen and utilize national capacities through national execution, to enhance accountability, to adopt a programme-oriented approach and decentralize capacity and authority to the field level and to support co-ordination of the United Nations system at the country level through the resident co-ordinators, and, in this context, encourages the Fund to increase the utilization of available national expertise in the formulation and implementation of population assistance activities;

7. Also encourages the Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to strengthen their co-operation in the field of maternal and child health care and family planning, each within its own mandate;

8. Emphasizes the importance of addressing the relationship between demographic pressures and unsustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, taking into account the decisions to be taken by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989;

9. Reaffirms the importance of the role of population policies in relation to development, as emphasized, inter alia, in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the

Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, 6/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990;

10. Welcomes the willingness of the nineteen members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as expressed in the December 1989 policy statement by Committee aid ministers and heads of aid agencies for their aid policies for the 1990s and reiterated at Committee meetings on population and development matters held in April and June 1990, to assist developing countries to establish, fund and implement effective population strategies and programmes as a matter of priority;

11. Stresses the primary role of Governments in the formulation, implementation and co-ordination of population policies and programmes at the national level and the role of the United Nations Population Fund, upon request, in supporting the development of national capacities in that respect;

12. Also stresses the need for co-ordination at the regional and interregional levels to focus on issues related to the attainment of specific population goals and objectives;

13. Recommends that the Fund continue to focus attention on the importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes, in particular those oriented towards the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries, and on the need to find and mobilize adequate resources to address these issues, and, in this context, urges the Fund to continue to undertake activities aimed at building better awareness of population issues, including their relation to environment and development issues and World Population Day;

14. Invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to give specific information, in the section on policy and programme co-ordination of the annual report, on the co-operation of the Fund with other relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990

6/ A/CONF.147/Misc.9.